



Egremont News

Issue 57

May, 2011

Rules & Regulations of this Newsletter:

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep residents informed of what is going on in their community. It is printed on a bi-monthly basis by the Selectmen's Office Staff. Articles submitted by Town Boards are not edited by the Select Board or Office Administrator. Outside organizations are allowed to submit articles of no longer than one column length. These articles are to be factual and will not be printed if they contain any political format, forum, or communication. We welcome reader input and hope you enjoy reading the Newsletter.

EGREMONT ON PARADE: Sunday, July 24, 2011 French Park, North Egremont, 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

If you have an email address and you would like to receive this Newsletter in that manner please let us know. If you can access our web page and would prefer to read the newsletter there please let us know. We would like to be able to cut down on expenses of printing this newsletter if possible. Lowering the number of printed copies and the number of copies to be mailed would help us to do that.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING:

Tuesday, May 3, 2011, 7pm at the Mt. Everett High School. Warrants are available at Town Hall, the Library, the North Egremont Store, or the South Egremont Post Office.

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION:

Tuesday, May 10, 2011, 10am to 7pm at the North Egremont Fire Station. Absentee ballots may be obtained by making a written request to the Town Clerk's office.

It's Your Decision :

It's finally here. Annual Town Meeting and budget time! May 3rd, Tuesday evening, 7pm in the Mt. Everett Auditorium. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible, to review and "hopefully" approve an annual operating budget, and weigh in on the important special articles, as well. There are some short term requests and some long term. The Selectboard has researched, questioned and done its homework, to bring you as much information as possible FOR YOU TO MAKE THE DECISION. Members of committees and boards will be on hand to enter those articles that fall under their supervision, and they will be on hand to answer questions.

In the meantime, you can pick up the warrant at the Post Offices or our Town Hall. Here are some items being presented: The school budget, the biggest item, of course. If you have the time, you should attend the Public Meeting scheduled for all of the towns in the district to discuss the proposed school budget and the proposed \$3,000,000 Capital Expenditure Bond (Wed. 4/27 at 7pm, Mt. Everett Auditorium); A new dump truck and police cruiser are needed; The second vote for a Municipal Lighting Plant is on the warrant (and described in the broadband article below); there are requests for funds for French Park and Prospect Lake, among others. Also, our Emergency Management Team requested that an article to construct a Police Facility be put back on the warrant. The proposal has been altered to address some concerns raised at the November meeting.

Then a week later and it's election time. Remember, the polls are open at 10am and close at 7pm, SHARP! We've had some good turn outs lately, it's good to see so many involved. Well done!

Broadband Is Getting Closer :

A recent article in the Berkshire Eagle described current efforts to bring broadband to Western Massachusetts. The "middle mile" is being strung, with completion planned for 2013. Most anchor institutions will be reached by next year. At the same time, discussions about the "end mile" solutions continue. WiredWest is the end mile solution that would service ALL who wanted it, within the communities that join the cooperative. WiredWest would be an "Open Access" network, allowing for any service provider to lease access, increasing competition and reducing cost. It would also be *all* fiber. 47 towns voted to join in the discussion to form its own fiber network, in February of 2010.

Egremont took the first step towards joining the proposed cooperative, WiredWest, at last November's Special Town Meeting. It is necessary for Egremont, first, to create a "Municipal Lighting Plant." This is essentially a new town department (no space or cost required) where the board members could be the Selectboard. They would then appoint a representative to the cooperative WiredWest. All of the towns will be voting to create Municipal Lighting Plants, so that the MLPs (Municipal Lighting Plants) join together as members of the cooperative, to create its own network. **There is no cost to create a MLP.** It only requires two consecutive votes within a 13 month period. It must pass by a 2/3 majority. If it does not pass on the second vote, Egremont could **not vote again for two years.**

Broadband and cell service have been the two most discussed issues for many years. Efforts of the last two years have brought both closer than ever before. **Voting YES on Article 5** would satisfy the two vote requirement for a MLP. The state would then approve, at no cost, Egremont's MLP. Creating the MLP and then joining WiredWest this summer would make Egremont a **voting member** of the cooperative. This would be in Egremont's best interest, to be involved in the bylaws and organization.

Voting YES on Article 6 would allow a transfer from Free Cash of \$1,000, to be used as a fee to join the cooperative WiredWest. A steering committee, consultants, volunteers and representatives from 47 towns have been developing plans and doing preliminary work towards forming the cooperative, using pro-bono efforts, along with donations and grants. The appointed town representatives voted that a fee, NO GREATER than \$1,000 would be asked from each town, upon joining. These fees would be used to offset future administrative costs. This is a small cost to be an early member of the cooperative. By summer's end, the cooperative will have been formed and the door to be a voting member - for formation of bylaws and organizational operations - will be closed. There are no additional costs. There is no liability being a member of the cooperative and Egremont could leave at any time. Any future cost or commitment would be brought to the voters of Egremont, as the MLP would have no funds to expend.

So, broadband has never been closer. There is a long way to go, and it took a great effort from many to get here. To vote YES on both Article 5 and 6 would put Egremont in the best position for broadband and demonstrate Egremont's commitment to bringing broadband here, for all. That commitment is an important asset in an application for Egremont to be part of a pilot program for early wiring and activation. Cost estimates for wiring Egremont were completed, as part of an early review, in February.

Town Clerk:

Some reminders about the upcoming Town Elections:

On Election Day, May 10, the polls will be open from 10:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

If you wish to receive an Absentee Ballot for this election, your request must be received, in writing, by 12:00 noon on Monday, May 9.

If you wish to over the counter vote, please call Town Clerk Margaret Muskrat to arrange a time.

Please remember to license your dog by June 1.

Want to hold a Town Office:

It's that time of year again... appointment time! The Selectboard appoints and reappoints members to various committees, towards the end of June, that serve the town. Many of these do not require you to be a registered voter. They only require the desire to serve. The committees with positions that are up for appointment or reappointment are: Animal Control Officer and Deputies, Board of Appeals and an Alternate (this requires voter registration), Representative to the Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission, Conservation Commission, Council on Aging, Draft Hydrant Committee, E-911 Coordinators, Egremont-Alford Cultural Council, Emergency Management Coordinator, Fence Viewers, Field Driver, Finance Committee (this requires voter registration), Fire Chief and Assistant, Forest Warden, French Park Committee, Gas Inspector, Hazardous Waste Coordinator, Board of Health (this requires voter registration), Historical Commission, Municipal Coordinators, Plumbing Inspector, Pound Keeper, Agricultural Commission, Southern Berkshire Medical Reserve Corp., Surveyor of Lumber, Technology Study Committee, Town Historian, Veteran's Agent, and Wire Inspector.

Some of these positions are mandated by the state and some require special knowledge or experience. Yet, there are many committees here that welcome new

members and are not limited as to the number of members. We welcome both year-round residents and second-home owners to inquire about some of these committees and join in the good work that they do.

Descriptions of each position and each committee's purpose is available at our Town Hall. We welcome seeing new faces and hearing new ideas. Many of these committees do not require great amounts of time and some can be flexible to match its member's time constraints. So if you've ever sat back and wondered why a committee is doing something or thought you had a better idea... we want to hear it. A community is only as strong as its citizens.

Phone service in Egremont:

As a part of the recent settlement agreement with Verizon, the Town has been given a liaison who we are to report service quality issues to.

If you have any problems with your phone service, please let Town Hall know by calling 413-528-0182 ext 10 so that the information can be passed on to Verizon.

Egremont's Memorial Day Parade:

Monday, May 30, 12:30pm. Celebration begins at 12noon at the South Egremont Fire Station. The parade marches to the Village Green, where a short ceremony is conducted, and then marches back to the South Egremont Fire Station. If you would like to participate in any way please contact Town Hall, 528-0182 ext 10.

Eco-tip #1:

Dry your clothes outside. (Carr Hardware has various ways to create a clothesline.) If you still use your dryer, clean the exhaust duct now, and scrub the filter screen with hot soapy water every 6 months.

Egremont Board of Assessors –

Real Estate Statutory Exemptions

Applications for these exemptions will be mailed to those Egremont residents who currently have such status or have requested information from us during the past year. The **deadline** for submitting those applications, and accompanying documentation, is **October 1, 2011**. The following are the exemption categories:

SENIOR – VETERAN and SURVIVING SPOUSE OR MINOR -- BLIND

Senior:

For eligibility, an individual must possess, as of July 1, 2010, the status of either

1. A surviving spouse or a minor with a parent deceased who owns and occupies the property as his domicile
2. A person 70 years or over who has owned and occupied the property as his domicile for at least 10 years.

There are income restrictions. Call the Assessors Office 528-0182, Ext. 14 for more information.

Veteran:

1. Veterans with a service connected disability of 10% or more as determined by the Veterans Administration or the branch of service from which separated.
2. Veterans who have been awarded the Purple Heart.
3. **Gold Star mothers and fathers.**
4. **Spouses** (where the domicile is owned by the veteran's spouse) and **surviving spouses** (who do not remarry) of veterans entitled to exemption under Clause 22.

Blind:

An individual must annually give proof of blindness by providing

1. A certificate from the Commission for the Blind attesting to a condition of legal blindness.
2. As an alternative for the first year an exemption is sought, a letter from a reputable physician certifying blindness in accordance with

the specifications of the Commission for the Blind. For each subsequent year, a certificate from the Commission attesting to blindness must be provided.

CLASSIFIED CHAPTER LANDS

FOREST-- AGRICULTURAL OR HORTICULTURAL -- RECREATIONAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

Forest land, agricultural and horticultural farm land and recreational land all receive special tax treatment resulting from constitutional amendments. The valuation of these categories of property, often referred to as classified chapter lands, is based on their use value and not their market value.

The forest, agricultural/horticultural and recreational classification programs under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapters 61, 61A and 61B respectively, are designed to encourage the preservation, enhancement and active productive use of the Commonwealth's forests, valuable farmland and open space.

If you fall into any of the above

Exemption categories, or if you believe your property might qualify for any of the Chapter classifications, and have not received an application, please contact us at 528-0182, Ext. 14 and leave a message with your name, address and phone number, and we will mail one to you immediately.

You can also pick one up at Town Hall anytime in the slots outside the Assessor's Office or during our office hours (Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon).

Explanations of each Exemption and Chapter category, including who would qualify, are available in the Assessor's Office or at <http://www.mass.gov>.

SENIOR – VETERAN - BLIND

http://www.mass.gov/Ador/docs/dls/publ/forms/AllPersonal_96.pdf

Forest-- Agricultural-- Recreational

<http://www.mass.gov/Ador/docs/dls/mflb/forms/CL1.pdf>

Agricultural Commission:

Members of the Egremont Agricultural Commission are excited to report their participation in the *Keep Farming Program* co-sponsored by the Great Barrington Agricultural Commission, the Great Barrington Master Plan Committee and the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. The

Keep Farming Program is part of the programs of the Glynwood Center *which is designed to help communities understand how agriculture contributes to the local economy, community character, availability of fresh food and the environment. Through this community building process, community residents begin a dialogue with local farmers that results in the creation of an informed citizenry prepared to take action in support of agriculture and farmers.*

Attendance was very good (over 100 people) at the first meeting held March 7th. There is lots of enthusiasm about this process and the outcome it will have. The Great Barrington community is excited to work with neighboring towns to make the process more inclusive. The *Keep Farming Program* has been very successful in communities like Chatham, NY. There are 3 phases to the process: organizing the community, analyzing local agriculture, and preparing an action plan.

At the meeting, people divided into 4 groups: Economics, Local Foods, Natural Resources and Aesthetics. Elizabeth Keen, co-owner of Indian Line Farm is part of the Economics committee. She would like to see other residents of Egremont participate in this one-year process as it is just as pertinent here in Egremont. For more information please contact Nick Stanton ngstanton@gmail.com or Mary Beth Merritt 528-4262.

In addition, the annual opening of area farmers' markets is coming up. Below is a listing of the markets near Egremont. Support your local farmers as much as you can! For a more complete listing of markets in Berkshire County go to Berkshiregrown.org.

A-Z Farmers' Market

94 West Ave, Great Barrington

Wednesdays 3-6 pm, June 1-Sept 28th

Farmers' Market @ CHP

442 Stockbridge Road, Great Barrington, June 2-

September 1, Thursdays 4-7 pm.

Great Barrington Farmers' Market

Old Train Station, behind Town Hall, Saturdays

9-1, May 7- Oct 29

Sheffield Farmers' Market

Route 7, Old Parish Church parking lot, Fridays

3-7, May – September.

Board of Health:

Spring is a season known for thorough cleaning around the home and yard. Use caution before you dump

those old products left on the shelves down the drain as they can be extremely harmful to your septic system. Do not dump old paints, harsh chemicals, medicine or any other product that will kill the bacteria in your septic tank. These products may also end up in our groundwater!

Protecting Your Septic System

Have your septic tank pumped by a professional every 2-3 years depending on usage.

If your septic tank is over 15 years old, have it inspected for deterioration. If you have a water softener/conditioner on your water system, your septic tank should be checked every 5-10 years.

Never use septic additives as these can contaminate groundwater.

Conserve water in and outside of your home by spreading out water-intensive activities like showers, dishwashing and laundry.

Don't use your toilet or disposal as a garbage can. Dispose of all solids including: coffee grounds, food waste and grease, in the trash.

Don't rinse paint brushes in the sink.

Dispose of fertilizers/pesticides, paints, pharmaceuticals and personal care products properly.

Well Inspection for Groundwater Protection

Inspect your wellhead several times a year.

This is the most visible portion of your drinking water system and it is built over your well to protect its various parts. Check the condition of the well covering, casing, and well cap to make sure there are no cracks or other entry points for potential pollutants.

Don't pile snow, leaves or other materials around the well where they can carry pollutants into the system.

Take care when working or mowing around your well. It is easy to damage the wellhead with heavy equipment, which will jeopardize the sanitary protection of your well, permitting contaminants to enter the water supply.

Eco-tip #2:

Used Brita Filters can be recycled! Save several and mail to Preserve Gimme 5, 823 NYS Rte 13,

Cortland NY 13045. (www.brita.com/support/filter-recycling/)

Council on Aging:

Seniors:

Are you struggling with ever increasing food budgets? – Get the food you need to stay healthy. Apply for SNAP/Food Stamps today. New Over-the-phone Application assistance! 1-800-645-8333 Monday-Friday 8:00am - 7:00pm, Saturday 10:00am - 2:00pm.

Are you in the donut hole with drug costs? Let Prescription Advantage fill the gap. They can help pay for medications. Call Prescription Advantage today! For Massachusetts residents 65 years of age or older; or disabled under 65 years old. CALL 1-800-243-4636, PRESS 2.

GETTING STARTED: What to do when a family member has memory loss??? This program is for family members who are caring for someone with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. Group size may be limited. Program is free of charge. Pre-registration is necessary. Call 1-800-272-3900 for more information or to register. This GETTING STARTED program will be presented TUESDAY, May 10 5:30-7:30pm in Gt. Barrington at the south county office of Berkshire Community College, 343 Main Street.

Our Annual Town Meeting will be held the first Tuesday in May - May 3rd. Annual Elections will be held the second Tuesday.....May 10th. Remember these dates and stay involved. It is important!!!!

Cultural Council:

The Alford-Egremont Cultural Council funded an edible wild plants walk at Crazy Wife Farm on Whites Hill Road. The event has been scheduled for Saturday, May 28, 2011 at 2:00 PM.

Green Committee:

Recycling! Have we lost touch with why it's so important?

We recycle because we have to – it's the law. The numerous waste bans in this state are intended to encourage reuse and recycling of some materials, conserve disposal capacity, and reduce the adverse environmental impacts of toxins.

But on the practical side, using an item once and then throwing it in the trash makes no sense. Space available for landfills is already dwindling (remember that infamous barge of homeless garbage floating around looking for a dumping place?). Furthermore, it takes less

energy to recycle materials such as glass, aluminum, and paper than to produce new. Less energy means less air pollution in the manufacturing process.

Economically, when we recycle we turn ugly old trash (boo-hiss) into a cash-friendly resource (ka-ching). Recycling industries generate more than \$600 million for each ton of recyclables processed, and they directly support more than 12,000 jobs in Massachusetts. Here in Egremont, our town takes in approximately \$12,000 a year for our recycled materials.

Egremont has a very good recycling rate, and our residents deserve hearty pats on the back. However, there is room for improvement. Please be thoughtful when disposing of every bit of trash.

Planning Board:

The Planning Board has continued to be extremely busy since the first of the year. In that four month period, when the board ordinarily meets twice a month, the board has met 15 times and held 5 hearings, conducting both the regular work of the board, work on a subdivision approval, bylaw work and work on a telecommunications facility application. Two of the most recent items worked on are a proposed amendment to our common driveway bylaw and approval of a telecommunications facility.

Common Driveway Bylaw Proposal

Two years ago the town adopted a citizen's petition at Annual Town Meeting for a zoning bylaw to allow common driveways to serve up to four dwellings with a permit from the Planning Board. Since then one common driveway permit has been granted and discussion held with the board about another.

The Planning Board supports the concept of using common driveways, also called shared driveways -- they lessen the number of driveways entering the roadway, thus improving traffic safety, keeping rural character and potentially minimizing environmental impacts. They may be preferred by builders over separate driveways or subdivision roads because of lower costs. But they also have potential for adverse effects, and these should be considered as well.

Common driveways can have impacts on neighbors that are not addressed in the current bylaw. The Planning Board has been working on an alternate common driveway bylaw proposal to

minimize the impact on neighbors so the enjoyment of their property and their property values will not be diminished. The board has also worked to address other issues that had been raised several years ago when a citizens committee studied common driveway bylaws in other towns and considered one for Egremont.

In addition to clarifying some of the bylaw's wording, the Planning Board's proposed alternative requires setbacks from neighbors' property lines to protect privacy and minimize the impact of sounds, dust, water runoff and lights from the estimated 40 vehicle trips a day for a common driveway. The proposed bylaw would allow opportunity for neighbors to point out potential physical damage to their property. It also would assure that common driveways are not used as a means to promote increased land division and development in ways that the land would otherwise not be developable. The proposal includes construction specifications to assure that the common driveway will allow for adequate access, parking and egress for emergency vehicles to provide for the public safety of not only the property owners on the common driveway but also other residents that may need rapid response from emergency personnel.

The Planning Board requested that the Selectboard place this proposed common driveway bylaw on the annual town meeting warrant to allow voters a chance to consider it. The Selectboard decided not to include the proposal on the warrant but stated they would place it instead on a special town meeting warrant within six months.

The Planning Board held a Public Hearing on the proposed bylaw on April 14, 2011, and received feedback from some of the sixteen people attending. The board will consider this feedback and welcomes additional comments.

Cell Tower

Egremont may soon have improved cell service through installation of a telecommunications facility in South Egremont. The Planning Board has approved the application of Mariner Tower II, LLC, and AT&T for a cell tower at 17 Nicholson Road, in the Catamount Ski Area. If no appeal of the board's decision is filed during the required twenty day appeal period, the Special Permit may be recorded in the Registry of Deeds as the final step in the Special Permit approval.

The process involved four Public Hearing sessions, during which input from the public was heard and additional information was submitted by the applicant. A balloon test was held to assess the visual impact of the tower. Consultations were held with the board's

telecommunications consultant, Walter Cooper of Williamsburg, Virginia, and with Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard, all at the expense of the applicant as provided in our bylaw. Chris Ciolfi represented Mariner Tower in the meetings before the board.

The Special Permit is for a 140 foot monopole tower with AT&T antennas at the top tier. There is room for four additional tiers of antennas by other providers. The applicant's propagation maps show the expected coverage area to be most of South Egremont, with some areas having a stronger signal than others. At the request of the Planning Board, the applicant ran additional tests to see if the signal strength to the south village area could be strengthened by raising the tower height an additional 20 feet, but tests showed no difference in signal strength was achieved. Approval was therefore granted for the 140 feet height requested in the application.

The Special Permit has several terms and conditions of approval, among them that Mariner will post bonds to assure that the facility will be maintained to protect public safety and will be removed if no longer in use. Mariner will allow the town to place up to three whip antennas for emergency municipal services at no cost to the town.

Mariner stated during the Public Hearing that it planned to start site testing and final structural planning soon after all approvals are finalized, in order to begin construction as soon as possible.

The board extends its appreciation to all those who participated in this process.

Composting:

Composting is a great way to recycle our organic "waste" into a beneficial soil amendment for our yards and gardens. Composting at home can also help reduce methane production at landfills. Using the compost in our landscapes helps store carbon in the soil instead of releasing it to the atmosphere. Compost creates healthy soil, reducing or eliminating the need for fertilizers, pesticides and irrigation. And we can reduce our trash by 50 percent or more by composting leaves, grass clippings, garden debris, fruit peels, vegetable scraps, tea bags, coffee grounds, egg shells, paper towels, napkins and even paper bags.

It's easy to make compost, and the Town of Egremont makes it even easier by offering rodent-resistant home composting bins for \$35.00, over

50% off the retail price. To obtain a discounted compost bin, contact Town Hall at 413-528-0182 ext 22. Act now, supplies are limited!

The Earth Machine has a capacity of 11 cubic feet, the equivalent of about 4 bags of leaves. It has a sliding door at the bottom for removing compost and a locking lid. It is made from 50% post-consumer recycled plastic.

The compost bins help hold in heat and moisture, keep animals out, and look more attractive than open compost heaps. Organic material will start to turn to compost in the bins in 3 to 6 months. Compost, known as "black gold" to gardeners, replenishes nutrients in the soil, helps retain moisture, makes the soil easy to work, and helps plants resist disease. Compost makes plants healthy so they can overcome adverse conditions without pesticides or chemical fertilizers.

Fill your compost bin using three parts "brown" material and one part "green" material. This provides food for the compost organisms in a recipe that will not create odors. "Brown" ingredients include leaves, straw, dried grass clippings, wood chips, sawdust, pine needles, and paper products such as paper towels, napkins, bags, plates, coffee filters, tissue and newspaper. "Green" materials include fresh grass clippings, weeds, fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, tea bags, eggshells, manure, and seaweed. Make sure the materials are damp as you build the pile, especially the "browns." As you build the pile, sprinkle on several shovelfuls of rich garden soil or finished compost after every 12" of fresh material.

Leaves are an important ingredient of a compost pile. Without them, a compost pile may become too wet and create odors. If you have leaves available, use them to start your compost heap and save the rest to add during the summer. Compostable food scraps and grass clippings should be buried under about 6" of leaves, where they will decompose odorlessly. If leaves are in short supply, add plenty of paper towels, napkins and torn up paper bags to provide the necessary carbon, and always bury your food scraps under this material.

Most of the composting work is done by soil organisms that convert organic material to humus. They need oxygen, just as we do. Lack of oxygen will slow down the composting process and cause odors. Turn your pile, fluff it with a hoe or turning tool, or build air passages into the pile to keep your compost pile aerobic and odor-free. Or use a compost bin that allows air to penetrate the pile.

In about three months, the material will start to

turn to compost. The material at the bottom of the pile will be ready first. As more time goes by, the level of compost in the pile will rise until it is easy to access just below the surface. You will know your compost is ready to use when it looks like rich, brown soil and no longer resembles the original materials.

Compost benefits all plants, and there are many different ways to use it. Add a handful of compost to each transplant hole when planting seedlings or potted plants. Spread another handful on the surface of the soil around the newly planted seedling, making sure that the compost is not touching the stem or trunk of the plant. Spread compost as a mulch around perennials, shrubs and other existing plantings. If you are planting seeds, apply one-half to three inches of compost and mix it in with the top four inches of soil in the seedbed. To rejuvenate lawns, screen your compost using ½" screening. Sprinkle the screened compost on the lawn about ¼" deep. Screened compost is also excellent for reseeding lawns. Sprinkle it ½" deep over the bare spots and distribute new grass seed on top. You can even make excellent potting soil with compost by mixing equal parts compost, sand and loam.

Eco-tips #3

Myth: Vehicles need to be warmed up before they're driven. Truth: Today's cars can be driven seconds after they're started.

(www.thedailygree.com/living-green/blogs/cars)

Egremont Holiday Tree Team:

As the Tree Team looks to go greener, we would like to thank all of those people who contributed their time and money to the holiday trees this year through our newsletter. Please know that we value each and every one of your contributions to this effort. We would like you also to know that we are now using only LED lights, many on timers and new this year were two solar powered, an idea from Peg Muskrat and the Garden Club. We will continue to add solar as we remember to hang the solar panels HIGHER than the snow piles next year - which is why the Creamery Road and Library Trees went out with the first snow storm and flickered through the season as we struggled to keep the panels clear! Also a special thanks to Lan Broderick and Nick Ball for their help

with the thankless task of removal and Karen Cumsky for starting us off with cookies toasted with Terry Moore's hot mulled cider. And to all of you who turned your trees on and brightened the darkest snowiest winter we have seen in years, our thanks.

Egremont Garden Club:

PLANT, BAKE AND TAG SALE –
SATURDAY, MAY 28

Spring is here and it's time to plant. To help you on your way, come to the Egremont Garden Club's Annual Plant, Bake and Tag sale on Saturday, May 28, in front of the First Congregational Church in South Egremont. A variety of perennials, annuals and herbs will be available at low cost from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. The majority of the plants come from members' own gardens and so are sure to flourish in yours. Herbs of all kinds are also locally grown and the annuals are ready to go in the ground. Then after your hard work gardening, why not treat yourself to home baked cookies, brownies, breakfast breads, pies or a beautifully decorated cake. The club will also hold a boutique tag sale featuring straw hats for your gardening work and slightly used wallets and scarves. A variety of items for your home will also be for sale. All proceeds from the sale go to the Garden Club's work in supporting scholarships, Egremont holiday decorations, gardening activities in local schools and providing flowers in our local public gardens. We hope to see you there.

The Egremont Garden club has an exciting program of speakers and events planned for this spring-summer season. All the meetings are open to interested gardeners, and we hope they might interest you in joining the club. If you would like to attend any one or the entire program, please contact Nancy Sanders, 528-2677, for locations and times. The Club's goal is to support all gardeners, beginning or experienced, and we are sure you will find the program of interest.

Wednesday, May 18, 2011 afternoon Cathy

Clark, newspaper columnist, discusses Flowers for Spring Gardens

Saturday, May 28, 2011. 9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Annual Plant, Bake and Tag Sale at the First Congregational Church, Main Street, South Egremont

Wednesday, June 15, 2011, afternoon
Workshop on Flower Arranging led by Mary Ellen O'Brian who will not only reveal new secrets of flower displays but also advise us as we make our own arrangements.

Wednesday, July 20, 2011, morning Tour of Members' Gardens led by expert Diana Harwood. She will offer practical advice and suggestions on gardening specifics for our area. We will visit the gardens of two members.

Wednesday, August 17, 2011, morning Breakfast meeting at the Clair M. Teague Senior Center on Route 7 south of Great Barrington to make floral arrangements for shut-ins which will then be delivered by Meals-on-Wheels.

Wednesday, September 21, 2011, at 2 p.m. Annual Gertrude Burdsall Scholarship Tea at the Bushnell-Sage Library, 48 Main Street, Sheffield The tea will be highlighted by a talk on Steepletop, the home of Edna St. Vincent Millay. This event is our major fund raiser, and so a contribution of \$10 (members \$5) is asked. Scholarships are awarded to local students with a concentration in agriculture, agronomy, horticulture or culinary arts.

Wednesday, October 19, 2011, afternoon Workshop on Cooking with Herbs led by an expert from the Botanical Garden. We will explore the culinary treats which can be created with herbs from our own gardens.

Saturday, December 3, 2011, morning Annual wreath making for Egremont village at the South Egremont Firehouse.

We hope to see you all or the event of your choice.

CET Events:

To see events that the Center for Ecological Technology is holding go to www.cetonline.org/Events.

Attached to this email is information on the upcoming Household Hazardous Waste and Mini-site Collections, which Egremont residents can take part in.

Board meeting schedule:

Subject to change. Please see postings of meetings at Town Hall and the Post Offices for more detail.

Archives Room - First Saturday 9-noon and May to October the third Monday 2-4pm or by appointment

Assessors - Tuesdays & Thursday 9am to 12noon & by appointment

Board of Health - Monday- 8am to 1pm, Tuesday 8:30am to 12pm & 12:30 to 2:30pm Wednesday & Thursday 8am to 1pm Meetings - Second & Fourth Thursday 9am to 11am

Board of Selectmen - Meetings every other Tuesday evenings 7pm. Office weekdays 7am to 3pm.

Building Inspector - Tuesday 12:30pm to 3:30pm.

Other times and inspections by appointment

Conservation Commission - Second and Fourth Thursdays 7:00pm

Finance Committee - Wednesdays 5:30pm January through April. Other times as needed.

Library - Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 2-6pm & Saturday 9-12noon

Planning Board - Second & Fourth Monday 7:30pm

School Committee: Second & Fourth Thursdays 6pm Mt. Everett High School Library

Tax Collector: Monday - Friday 7:00am to 3:00pm

Town Clerk - Every other Tuesday evenings 6pm-9pm, Tuesday mornings 9am to 12noon or by appointment

Transfer Station - Tuesday & Thursday 8am to 1pm, Saturday 8am to 3pm, Sunday 12noon to 4pm

Water Department - Office weekdays 8am to 2pm

Meetings second Thursday 4:30pm at Town Hall

Zoning Board of Appeals - as needed

To reach a board member or to leave a message please call the Town Hall.

Business listings:

In an effort to promote local small businesses, the following businesses/services located in Egremont have agreed to be listed here. If we missed asking you and you wish to be included, please send your information to the Town Hall.

The Silo B&B - guest accommodations
413-528-5195

The Inn at Sweet Water Farm - B&B
1 Prospect Lake Road
413-528-2882
www.innsweetwater.com

The Weathervane Inn - Lodging
413/800-528-9580

Baldwin Hill Farm B&B -
121 Baldwin Hill Road N/S
528-4092
www.baldwnhillfarm.com

John Andrews' Restaurant - Restaurant
413-528-3469

Swiss Hutte Country Inn and Restaurant-
Restaurant & Lodging
413-528-6200

Howard's Antiques - Antique Lighting &
Restoration
413-528-1232

www.howardsantiquelighting.com

Red Barn Antiques - Antique lighting & fine metal
polishing
413-528-3230

Home - Asian Antiques & Interior Objects
195 Hillsdale Road (Route 23)
413-528-5383

www.homeasianantiques.com

41 Main Antiques Gallery - Vintage and modern
furniture, antiques, collectibles,
architectural and decorative objects.
413-528-0112

www.41mainantiques.com

Blue Rider Stables - Therapeutic Horseback
Riding

Lessons, summer programs

www.bluerider.org

413-528-5299

Green River Arabians & Pintos -

Horse Boarding, lessons, judging.

413-528-2367 arabpinto13@yahoo.com

Indian Line Farm - Community Supported
Agriculture (CSA) & Farmers Markets
413-528-8301

www.indianlinefarm.com

Turner Farms Maple Syrup - Phillips Road, open
7am to 7pm 7 days a week. 413-528-5710

G&S Gventer "Books - Buy & Sell Books
413-528-2327

Elfi Six Shiatsu/Acutonics®, Bodywork
413-644-9979

www.CosmicResonance.com

Peter Goldberg, Dipl. Ac - Acupuncture, Pain
Management 413-528-5055

Zorn Family Chiropractic-Chiropractor
44 Main Street, South Egremont
413-528-9654

www.healingspiritdc@yahoo.com

Zorn Core Fitness -

Personal, Couples & Group Training

Cardio Room - \$25 per month Free 1 month
cardio for Egremont residents

46 Main Street, South Egremont
413-528-1594

www.zorncorefitness.com

zornari@gmail.com

Yoga at Zorn Core Fitness, with Karin Beebe

Ashtanga Yoga & Gentle/Hatha Yoga

46 Main Street

413-528-0828

kbyoga@gmail.com

Cory B. Loder, L.I.C.S.W. - Individual & Couple
Counseling - Specializing in Dual Diagnosis
9 Miller View

413-528-0393

1-888-528-0393

Divine Automotive - Automotive repair

413-528-8007

Old Egremont Country Store - groceries, beer, wine,
liquor, newspapers, lottery, & much more
413-528-4796

Blueberry Lane Home Design - Interior decorating
413-528-9633

Closet Collection - clothing & household
consignment shop

413-528-6236

Berkshire Veneer Company - wholesale/retail
wood veneer sales

413-644-9696

L and L Construction - Home repairs, additions,
new home building

413-528-5548

"Jack of All Trades"-Handyman Services

Jack Buckley

413-528-1982

413-446-1982

Catamount Ski Area - Skiing

413-528-1262

www.catamountski.com

Anita Schilling - Real Estate Listing & Sales

Barnbrook Realty

413-528-4423

anitacentury21@aol.com

Florence F. Browner Real Estate - Full Service

90 Creamery Road

413-528-3266

flobro@wildblue.net

Kenver Ltd - Winter Sports Equipment, Apparel &
Accessories

39 Main Street

413-528-2330

www.kenverltd.com

Maple Leaf Art Gallery - Joan Mentzinger
154 Hillsdale Road, Route 23

The Agency Without Walls - Helen Krancer
Marketing Consulting and Copywriting That
Get Results. 413-644-9700
helen@agencywithoutwalls.com

Cyber Knight - Matthew Wall
PC repairs - Networking - Internet
413-528-5415
matt@cyber-knight.net

James Olmsted - Outdoor Services & Caretaking
Field mowing
413-528-0102
pager 413-261-2150

Berkshire Wildlife Solutions - Resolving conflicts
with nature. Eric F. Ives
Mass Problem Animal Control Agent
Consultation/Inspection, Capture, removal
and exclusionary work.
413-528-9813 413-250-5094

PAPERCHASERS Barbara Fields - Organizing and
Productivity Services, Project and Time
Management
413-528-2824
barbara@paperchasers.com

Brookside Quiltworks - Catherine Kane - fabric
shop and quilt gallery. 2 Sheffield Road,
Egremont
413-528-0445 brooksidequiltworks.com

Berkshire South Regional Community Center
15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington MA
413-528-2810 www.berkshiresouth.org
Non-profit community organization serving

17 towns throughout the Southern Berkshires.
Providing a variety of educational, recreational and
cultural programs for all ages - from early childhood
to senior citizens - and partners with several local
organizations.

Support local businesses

***"All the great things are simple, and many can
be expressed in a single word: freedom, justice,
honor, duty, mercy, hope." Winston Churchill***

*Be Happy Friend
By Stanley Farnum*

*If you still cast a shadow when you walk in the sun
And leave a trail through the dew of the morn,
If the flowers of the field nod and send you sweet
breath
From the edge of the patch you have worn,*

*If early awake a blue bird sings
And the little stream from the wood whispers too,
Then be happy friend, be happy to know
On this day God made it all just for you.*

*When a traveling wind in the summer tall grass
Stirs the field like waves of the sea
And circles to rise and give soft touch
To the newborn leaves of the tree,
Then be happy friend, be happy to know
Like the sweet air you breathe it's all free.*

*When the warm rising sun seeks the blue of the sky
And the far away mountains stand tall,
Take a moment to stop and turn full around
To be sure you have captured it all.
Then be happy friend, be happy to know
That tomorrow God's gifts again call.*

Town of Egremont
P.O. Box 368
South Egremont MA 01258
413-528-0182
www.egremont-ma.gov
tegrement@yahoo.com

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"The Town of Egremont is an equal opportunity
provider and employer."
